



# THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI.

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## **Requirement for Sole Sourcing of CARIS Software for Division of Marine Sciences**

The University of Southern Mississippi, through the Division of Marine Sciences was awarded a research contract from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to identify US Government bathymetric data sets, not acquired by NOAA, to review these data sets for accuracy and fit-for-purpose, and to reformat these data sets for incorporation into the NOAA nautical charting system.

This project requires downloading digital data, which will be edited and manipulated in a fashion that suits the client. One step of the process is to review the digital data sets against previously acquired NOAA datasets. These data sets are delivered in a .bag file extension, which was generated by CARIS software by NOAA (or its contractors). The CARIS software can take the existing datasets easily back into the CARIS software for data analysis.

NOAA have had a long running history of utilizing CARIS as a processing and quality control tool for data acquired for updating to NOAA charts. Therefore, the data sets that they require from USM are to be delivered in a format that is readable in CARIS with a minimum amount of effort on the part of NOAA. Utilizing CARIS for the development of datasets greatly reduces any effort required on the part of the client.

USM currently utilizes CARIS as a software package as an educational tool, therefore, the graduate students that will be aiding in the research projects for this NOAA project will be able to use previously learned skills in successfully completing the project. USM receives a heavily discounted rate for educational licenses and utilizing the educational licenses for purposes of research would violate the terms of the agreement. The research license would also be at a discounted rate. Other products on the market can complete various parts of this project, but none are able to do all tasks that we require for this project. Utilizing other software packages makes incorporating of the data by the client in their CARIS systems more difficult and the purpose of this grant is to easily generate data packages that can be utilized by NOAA, minimizing the effort on their part.

The current contract period ends at the end of September 2016, but has been renewed for an additional year. The success of this contract and subsequent projects will greatly increase the chances for USM to continue to be awarded contracts from NOAA and other US Governmental agencies.

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